Cyanocompsa cyanea argentina: ♀ a, PA, Sep, 21·3.

Sporophila collaris melanocephala: ♂ i, Bella Vista (Corrientes), Jan, 12·8.

Sporophila minuta hypoxantha: ♂ a, PMB, Jan, 8·9.

Spinus magellanicus ictericus: ♂ a, EIB, Mar, 11·0.

Coryphospingus cucullatus rubescens: ♂♂ a, PMB, Jan, 14·3, 14·4.

Arremon flavirostris polionotus: ♂ a, PMB, Jan, 30·3; ♂♂ a, EIB, Mar, 29·2, 28·0, 28·0; ♂ i, EIB, Mar, 28·2; ♀♀ a, PMB & EIB, Jan & Mar, 29·9, 27·9, 27·8.

Ammodramus humeralis: ♂♂ a, PMB, Jan, 14·3, 15·5; ♂ i, PMB, Jan, 15·2.

Zonotrichia capensis: ♂♂ a, PMB, Jan, 22·5, 22·5, 22·2; ♀ i, PMB, Jan, 19·5.

Poospiza nigrorufa nigrorufa: ♂ a, PA, Apr, 17·0; ♂♂ a, PA, Sep, 20·0, 20·7; ♀ a, PA, Sep, 20·0.

Poospiza melanoleuca: ♂♂ a, PA, Sep, 15·0, 15·0; ♀♀ a, PA, Sep, 14·0, 15·0.

Embernagra platensis platensis: ♂ a, PMB, Jan, 28·2; ♂ i, PMB, Jan, 27·5.

References:

Contreras, J. R. 1975. Caracteristicas ponderales de las aves del Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi. *Physis* 34: 97–107.

Contreras, J. R. & Davies, Y. E. 1978. Aportes para el conocimiento del peso de las aves argentinas: I. *Hornero* (in press).

Fiora, A. 1933, 1934. El peso de las aves. *Hornero* 5: 174–188, 353–365.

Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1971. *A Guide to the Birds of South America.* Edinburgh & London: Oliver & Boyd.

Olrog, C. C. 1963. Lista y distribución de las aves argentinas. *Opera Lill.* 9: 1–377.

Short, L. L. 1975. A zoogeographic analysis of the South American Chaco avifauna. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 154: 163–352.

Address: Julio R. Contreras, Iadiza, Casilla de Correo 507. 5500, Mendoza, Republic of Argentina.

First records of *Sporophila caerulescens* from Colombia; a probable long distance migrant from southern South America

by J. V. Remsen, Jr. & Eugene S. Hunn

Received 18 July 1978

On 5 Aug 1974 Remsen saw 5 Double-collared Seedeaters *Sporophila caerulescens* in adult male plumage, and several associating females presumed to be this species, just south of the airport runway at Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia. The same group of birds was studied again the following day for 20 minutes from as close as 7 m. They were feeding at the tips of tall grass stems along a roadside. A single male was seen there again on 3 Nov 1974, although no birds had been seen in the interim. Specimens could not be obtained because the road bordered a Colombian military installation, but there was no doubt as to the identification. The Double-collared Seedeater is distinctly marked,

with a dark grey chin bordered by clean, white malars and a white throat, and a narrow, grey chest band, features unique within this genus. Remsen is familiar with the two dark-and-white seedeaters occuring at Leticia, *S. americana* and *S. lineola/bouvronides*.

On 7 and 11 Aug 1975 Hunn studied 1–2 males in weedy fields on the outskirts of Leticia. The distinctive throat and chest markings were seen clearly, as well as the overall grey upperparts, white underparts, and absence of a wing speculum. No territorial behaviour or singing was noted in any of the Leticia observations; the birds did not appear to be local residents and indeed could not be subsequently relocated.

Not only is *S. caerulescens* unkown previously from Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee 1964, 1970) but there are no previous records from north of the Amazon River. Its range is south of the Amazon in lower Amazonian, eastern, southern, and southwestern Brazil, eastern Peru, northern and eastern Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and south to central Argentina (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Paynter 1970). The localities in eastern Peru are based on specimens thought to be migrants from the southeast (O'Neill 1969). The 6 specimens from Balta in southeastern Peru were collected between 25 Jun and 25 Jul. The 3 specimens from Yarinacocha, farther north in east-central Peru were obtained between 1 Aug and 5 Aug, virtually the same August dates as the Leticia observations. Yarinacocha, although 700 km southwest of Leticia, is still the closest known locality to Leticia for this seedeater.

S. caerulescens is primarily a stem-gleaner. It seldom feeds on the ground, concentrating on those seeds still born by the stalks. This is equally true for *S. lineola/bouvronides* and at least 6 other seedeaters (Schwartz 1975 and *in litt.*). When areas no longer produce appropriate seeds on the stalk, specialized stem-gleaning seedeaters such as *Sporophila* are obliged to look elsewhere for food, whereas other granivorous birds remain to feed on the reservoir of fallen seeds (P. Schwartz). This results in wandering to varying degrees and seasonality in the distribution of some species, as noted by Slud (1964) and Ridgely (1976) for *S. minuta* and *S. nigricollis* in Costa Rica and Panama respectively, and by P. Schwartz for these and all other seed eaters he knows in Venezuela. Remsen also noted pronounced changes in the numbers of *S. caerulescens* present at Tumi Chucua, near Riberalta, Beni, Bolivia: from 4 to 22 Nov 1976 (beginning of wet season), this species was seen daily in flocks of up to 200 in tall grass pasture borders, but it was completely absent during a second visit 29 Dec 1976–14 Jan 1977 (middle of wet season). In the intervening 5 weeks of daily field work in savannah 200 km south of Riberalta *S. caerulescens* was seen only once, a flock of 4 on 2 December.

Schwartz (1975) indicated that the northern South America populations of *S. lineola/bouvronides* are long distance migrants, not just off-season wanderers. Although Short (1975) considered *S. caerulescens* to be non-migratory, it seems probable that this species also makes long migrations, as thought by Hudson (1920) and O'Neill (1969), and suggested further by our Leticia observations, since Leticia is over 1100 km from northeastern Bolivia, the nearest breeding locality.

Movements of *S. caerulescens* and other *Sporophila* are undoubtedly tuned to wet and dry seasons and the effect of these on grass seed production. The dry season throughout the eastern Bolivia–Paraguay–northern Argentina–southern Brasil region is Jun–Sep, during which time *S. caerulescens* would

be most likely to be on the move, and it is these months which have produced the records for Peru and Colombia. The August Leticia records coincide with the local 'dry' season there, but rain still falls then almost every other day and grass seed production is virtually continuous. It seems likely that the presence of *S. caerulescens* at Tumi Chucua, Bolivia, was a reflection less of local conditions than of long established behaviour related to food availability in the breeding range farther south; those flocks could even have been transient from 'wintering' grounds further to the north where more continuous rain provided appropriate seeds.

Hudson (1920: 45) stated that *S. caerulescens* was one of the last to arrive at and first to depart from Buenos Ayres, where 'summer' lasts late Nov–Mar. Dr. Gloria de Villafane says that in northern Buenos Aires Province grasses and other appropriate plants begin to seed in November, reaching a peak sometime in January or February (per P. Schwartz). Thus it may be significant that the Tumi Chucua birds disappeared completely sometime between 22 Nov and 29 Dec. The single bird at Leticia in November may also have been returning to the south.

Much more data are needed, since not even the total breeding range of this species is known for certain. As emphasized by Schwartz (1975), gonad measurements and fat data are particularly important for determining migratory as opposed to breeding status. The degree of migratory behaviour in *Sporophila* will probably be a function of (a) seasonality of seed production on breeding ground, (b) degree of specialization on seeds born only on stalks, and (c) distance to nearest suitable feeding areas.

Acknowledgements: Remsen's field work was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund. He is also grateful to Sr. Mike Tsalickis of Leticia and the staff of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Tumi Chucua, especially Bob and Lois Wilkinson, Guy and Jean East, and Ron Olson, for aid and hospitality. We thank Steven L. Hilty and John P. O'Neill for their comments on an earlier draft, and are deeply indebted to Paul Schwartz for sharing his knowledge and for detailed and percipient comments.

References:

Hudson, W. H. 1920. *Birds of La Plata.* Vol. 1. New York: Dutton.
Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1964. *The Birds of Colombia.* Narberth, Pennsylvania: Livingston.
— 1966. *The Species of Birds of South America and their Distribution.* Narberth, Pennsylvania: Livingston.
— 1970. *A Guide to the Birds of South America.* Wynnewood, Pennsylvania: Livingston.
O'Neill, J. P. 1969. Distributional notes on the birds of Peru, including twelve species previously unreported from the Republic. *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Louis. St. Univ.* 37: 1–11.
Paynter, R. A., Jr. 1970. Emberizinae. *In Check-list of Birds of the World.* Vol. 13. Cambridge Mass.: Museum of Comparative Zoology.
Ridgely, R. S. 1976. *A Guide to the Birds of Panama.* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton Univ.
Schwartz, P. 1975. Solved and unsolved problems in the *Sporophila lineola/bouvronides* complex (Aves: Emberizidae). *Ann. Carneg. Mus.* 45: 277–285.
Short, L. L. 1975. A zoogeographic analysis of the South American Chaco avifauna. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 154: 165–352.
Slud, P. 1964. The birds of Costa Rica. Distribution and ecology. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 128: 1–430.

Addresses: J. V. Remsen, Jr., Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893, U.S.A.; Eugene S. Hunn, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 98195, U.S.A.